

REMEMBRANCE OF FALLEN
TULARE COUNTY PEACE OFFICERS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join the people of Tulare County and the United States of America as they give thanks to those peace officers who have made the supreme sacrifice while working to enforce our laws, protect our homes, and guard our lives. Events of the past year have served as a poignant reminder of the selfless dedication to duty that peace officers demonstrate every day, and those of us who served in the 105th Congress were the direct beneficiaries of this devotion, when two Capitol Hill Police Officers fell in the line of duty.

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department's Peace Officer Memorial Service and dedication of the Peace Officer Memorial will be held today, May 15, 2002, in Visalia, California. This monument pays tribute to the nineteen Tulare County peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. To honor their noble sacrifices, the people of Tulare County have come together to donate the funds needed to make this lasting tribute to these brave individuals a reality.

This monument honors eight members of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, three members of the California Highway Patrol, and eight members of various other law enforcement agencies located in Tulare County, including one federal officer from the National Parks Service. The Tulare County peace officers who have been killed in the line of duty are: Deputy John N. Wren, Deputy Oscar A. Beaver, Constable Robert A. Carter, Officer George Owen Barlow, Officer Norman A. Kessler, Officer Richard L. Simpson, Sergeant Charles Garrison, Officer Richard W. Smith, Deputy Ross C. Cochran, Officer John R. Ellis, Deputy Vernon L. Cox, Deputy Carlos Magana, Officer Thomas J. Schroth, Detective Monty L. Conley, Detective Joe R. Landin, Deputy Michael R. Egan, Reserve Officer Ronald Hills, Ranger James Randall Morgenson, and Officer James J. Rapozo.

In closing, I thank these and every other law enforcement officer for their sacrifices made to protect and serve their fellow citizens.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Bureau of Reclamation and congratulate all of its employees and supporters on reaching an extraordinary milestone. As the bureau celebrates its 100th anniversary, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate each and every employee on many years of excellence in serving the Western United States and, indeed, the entire nation. The efforts put forth by this organization are truly appreciated by everyone who lives in the seventeen Western states that it serves, and I am honored to stand before you

today and bring its many accomplishments to the attention of this body of Congress. For 100 years, this agency has worked diligently to make the Western United States livable, and I, along with the many residents that have benefited from their efforts, am proud and thankful for what you have accomplished.

Started in 1902 by President Theodore Roosevelt in order to permit "homemaking" in the Western states, the Bureau and its employees have long been a vital part of Western life. Colorado could not be the vibrant and majestic state it is today without the hard work and dedication of each and every employee in the hundred year history of the Bureau. From the early beginnings, the employees have been the heart of the agency, involved in numerous projects not only in the administration of the program but assisted in the construction of the dams and canals as well. Today, the Bureau has twenty-two offices that oversee 180 projects and the employees still remain the core of the operation. In addition to the commitment of the supporters and employees of the Bureau of Reclamation, this vision and foresight of the agency have been vital to Colorado and the West.

This agency has long recognized the thoughtfulness and forbearance of our early Colorado settlers. As this country was expanding, the need to create abundant and rich soil became a backbone to ensuring the settlement of Western lands. The Bureau of Reclamation has helped our forefathers build several reservoirs and canals to gather and transfer water that would be used to irrigate otherwise fruitless soil. As a result, the efforts of the Bureau have helped aspiring farmers to reap the benefits of an otherwise desolate landscape. This was a remarkable accomplishment for those early times in our history and I am thankful for the role that the Bureau of Reclamation played in assistance to our early pioneers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to congratulate each and every employee and supporter of the Bureau of Reclamation on this historic occasion, and wish each of them all the best in the next one hundred years. I commend each of you for your work in ensuring that the water needs of all of the residents of the Western States, from the early homesteaders to today's modern users, are addressed. I also would like to recognize the successful vision of the agency and I know that the Bureau will continue to provide that vision to take us into the twenty-first century. I am delighted to bring the efforts of such an extraordinary agency to the attention of this body of Congress. Keep up the great work; I look forward to the years to come!

BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-
CAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense,

and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003. This bill provides appropriations for an increase in pay for our armed services personnel, which I believe is very important for the security of our great nation. The authorization provides an across-the-board 4.1 percent pay increase for military personnel. The across-the-board and targeted raises would be the equivalent of a 4.7 percent across-the-board raise and will reduce the pay gap between the military and private sector from 7.5 percent to 6.4 percent. Our service men and women work very hard to protect this country and its way of life. Therefore, I believe that by raising their pay and giving more than a billion dollars more than the President requested, this will increase morale, which is very important.

On the other hand, this Authorization provides funds for flawed defense items. First, the Air Force's controversial F-22 Raptor Fighter, the next-generation premier fighter, which is intended to replace the F-15 and F-16. It is designed to have both air-to-air and air-to-ground fighter capabilities. This aircraft is plagued by cost overruns, technical problems and questions over whether the Air Force should direct its resources to expensive manned aircraft when newer technologies and strategies are more effective and less costly. The bill authorizes \$1 billion for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) procurement and research and development. UAV's have the ability to provide first-hand reconnaissance of opposition forces without placing lives at risk. Moreover, UAV's have proven particularly valuable in Afghanistan by identifying and tracking enemy targets, and conducting missions too dangerous for manned aircraft. By canceling the F-22, the Air Force can free up substantial funding that can be used to more aggressively pursue programs such as long range bombers. Yet, we fund this flawed and expensive jet fighter.

Another flawed item is the controversial Crusader artillery system. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld signaled his intent to cancel the Crusader program, and to divert the \$475 million in research and development funds earmarked for the program to another system. In addition, the President asked this Congress not to revive the \$11 billion program, because he fully supported Secretary Rumsfeld's decision to scrap the artillery system and seek alternatives more in keeping with the current threat facing the United States. The Congress ignores the President's request and still proposes funds for this flawed and unwanted item.

Along with these flawed programs, this Authorization will also relax environmental laws. Although, the bill authorizes the President's request for the Energy Department's environmental restoration and cleanup programs. The Defense Department environmental programs, relaxes some current requirements under our environmental laws which protects wildlife habitats on military installations. Here again, the Administration is trying to disrupt our delicate wildlife habitats to benefit its friends.

However, the most problematic item within the authorization is the \$7.8 billion ballistic missile defense. The reality with a ballistic missile defense system is that if a country is